



July – August 2022

Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

2022 Officers

President ----- Mike Calvert
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2nd V.P. ----- Terry Chronister
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Denis Wormington

Border Star Editor

Dennis Myers

Meetings

2nd Wednesday monthly, 7:00 pm
Village Heights Community of
Christ Church
1009 Farview Drive
Independence, Missouri

Visitors Always Welcome!

Annual Dues

Individual ----- 25.00
Family ----- 35.00
Student (under 21) ----- 5.00
Newsletter Only,
(no meetings) ----- 10.00

For Information

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★ *The Border Star* ★

Official Publication of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri
“Studying the Border War and Beyond”

President’s Letter

“In time, even death itself might be abolished; who knows but it may be given to us after this life to meet again in the old quarters, to play chess and draughts, to get up soon to answer the morning roll call, to fall in at the tap of the drum for drill and dress parade, and again to hastily don our war gear while the monotonous patter of the long roll summons to battle.

Who knows but again the old flags, ragged and torn, snapping in the wind, may face each other and flutter, pursuing and pursued, while the cries of victory fill a summer day? And after the battle, then the slain and wounded will arise, and all will meet together under the two flags, all sound and well, and there will be talking and laughter and cheers, and all will say, ‘*Did it not seem real? Was it not as in the old days?*’”

-Sergeant Berry Benson, Army of Northern Virginia, 1880

Sergeant Benson enlisted three months before Fort Sumpter and served in McGowen’s Brigade-Wilcox’s Division-A.P. Hill’s Corps.

I have been re-reading several memoirs of written by Civil War veterans. Titles such as William Gregg’s *Civil War, Teacher, Preacher, Soldier Spy; Three Years with Quantrill; With Porter in North Missouri* and; *I Acted From Principle*. There are more, but you get the idea. It’s no mystery that each of these accounts were written in the twilight years of the authors’ lives. I asked myself why? A little bit of investigation will tell you that the accounts don’t always follow the exact and accepted historical story. They are not always entertaining. They do recount what the author experienced or the memory of that experience. I don’t believe the author intended to mislead the reader. With the exception of *A True Story of Chas. W. Quantrell* told by Harrison Trow. Even Quantrill’s name wasn’t correct. If you ever read this book, it will become evident rather quickly that Mr. Trow writes of himself as ever the hero.

These men wrote, in some cases, to set the record straight. Others so that the history would not be forgotten. Others to remember an old friend and the times they shared laughter, hardship and terror. They wrote so future generations might understand and perhaps learn that actions have consequences. They wrote to provide justification for what happened over four years of conflict. They wrote so they would not be forgotten. It was the most memorable and forgettable time of their life. Sergeant Benson wrote about how important the conflict was to him, to the point of wishing to relive again those times of battle. “*Did it not seem real?*”

~ Mike Calvert, President
Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri

CWRTWM Calendar

July 2022 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, July 13, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. Village Heights Community of Christ Fellowship Hall, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. Dan Smith: “The Civil War in Jackson County, Missouri.” Dan is an attorney and active member of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City. He has served as President and is head of the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund which provides markers for the Battle of Westport and is presently working on additional markers for the Battle of the Big Blue in Kansas City, Missouri.

August 2022 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, August 10, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. Village Heights Community of Christ Fellowship Hall, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. Peggy Buhr: “Order No. 11 and Its Effect on Women and Children.” Peggy is the Director of the Bates County Museum in Butler, MO.

Other History Events

Saturday at Shoal Creek Historical Village

Saturday, July 2, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., 7000 NE Barry Road, Kansas City, MO. The Shoal Creek Re-enactors will bring the village to life with shoot-outs and skits throughout the day. The year will be 1876 with gunfighters, outlaws, lawmen, and other town folk roaming the streets. Rain or Shine. \$5 per person; under 10 Free.

Monthly Kaw Mission Council

Sunday, July 10, 2022 – 2:00 p.m. The Carnegie, 303 West Main, Council Grove, KS. Ken Spurgeon: “Loyal to the Union, The Story of the Kanza Tribe during the American Civil War.” Refreshments after the program. Suggested donation of \$3.00.

Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, July 12, 2022—6:00 p.m. Golden Corral, 8800 N. Skyview Avenue, Kansas City, MO. Kent Johnson: “Tales of Old Trail Town.”

Civil War Wednesdays at the Harris-Kearney House

Wednesday, July 13, 2022 – 1:00 p.m. 4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, MO. Dan Smith: “Blacks in Blue at the Battle of Westport.” This is the story of African Americans who fought for their freedom during the Battle of Westport. \$6.00.

Shawnee Indian Mission Historical Society / Brown Bag

Wednesday, July 20, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. at the Shawnee Indian Mission, 3403 W. 53rd Street, Fairway, KS. Meet to carpool to a fieldtrip of local cemeteries and sites of historical people associated with the Shawnee Indian

Mission. Will return to the Mission by Noon to go to a local restaurant (First Watch?) for lunch.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Wednesday, July 20, 2022 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner, Cost is \$32. Milburn Golf and Country Club, 7501 W. 69th Street, Overland Park, KS. Mr. A. Wilson Greene: “The Petersburg Campaign.” He is presently writing a 3-volume book on the Campaign. Reservations are required by Wednesday, July 13th. E-mail Susan Keipp at skeipp@kc.rr.com or call (816) 333-0025.

Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, July 20, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO (across from Walmart). Cass County Historical Society: “Battle of the Ravines.”

Third Thursday at Clay County Museum

Thursday, July 21, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. Clay County Museum, 14 N. Main Street, Liberty, MO. Chris Harris: “Was Abraham Lincoln in Clay County?”

Fort Osage Artifact ID Day

Saturday, July 23, 2022 – 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Fort Osage National Historic Landmark, 105 Osage Street, Sibley, MO. Family-friendly activities and crafts that will teach about the science of archaeology. Adults-\$8, Seniors 62 and above-\$4, Youth (5-13 years)-\$4.00, Under 5-Free.

9th Annual U. S. Grant Symposium

Saturday, July 23, 2022 – 9:50 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. Soldiers Memorial Military Museum, St. Louis, MO. Speakers: John Samson: “U.S. Grant and the Battle of Belmont.” Silvana R. Siddali: “Grant’s Role In Advancing the Ratification of the Constitutional Amendment for Universal Male Suffrage.” Frank J. Scaturro: “Why Grant Belongs in the Pantheon of Presidential Greats.” Curt Fields: “First Person Explanation of Fort Donelson, Vicksburg, and Appomattox.” Visit the website at, www.mohumanities.org/grant-symposium/.

The California Gold Rush Letters and Diary of James & David Lee Campbell - Mid-Continent Library program

by David Jackson: Thousands of overland travelers funneled through Jackson County during the first half of the 19th Century on the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California trails. Follow the trail of two young men who traveled across Missouri in 1850. Did they strike it rich? The three dates are;

- Monday, July 25, 2022 – 6:30 p.m. Midwest Genealogy Center

- Tuesday, July 26, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. Lone Jack Programming Space
- Saturday, July 30, 2022 – 2:00 p.m. Red Bridge Community Room

Bus Tour on Oregon-California Trail

Saturday, July 30, 2022 – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Meet at the SE parking lot of Johnson County (KS) Community College on Quivira Road south of College Boulevard. Reservations are \$50 including box lunch. Guides are Ross Marshall and Pat Traffas. Route and history are Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop, Olathe Square, Gardner Junction, Lanefield School, Bluejacket Crossing Winery, Blue Mound, Blanton's Bridge, Veteran's Park, and KU. Checks may be mailed to Trails Head Chapter, c/o Lila Aamodt, 5938 Reeds Road, #202, Mission, KS 66202. Please send questions to lilaamodt@gmail.com.

First Saturday at Arrow Rock, MO

Saturday, August 6, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. Arrow Rock State Historic Site. Mike Dickey: "The Missouri River Then (1804) and Now (2022)." What was the Missouri River as seen by Lewis & Clark and other early explorers in contrast to its condition today?

Battle of Athens Reenactment, Revere MO

Saturday and Sunday, August 6-7, 2022 – 9 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Saturday and 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. 1:00 p.m. – Battle of Athens Reenactment both days. 3:00 p.m. – Traditional Civil War Reenactment on Saturday only. Battle of Athens State Historic Site, 12378 Athens State Park Road, Revere, MO. Free. Tours of Thome-Benning House (Cannonball House). For information please call (660) 877-3871.

Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, August 9, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. Golden Corral, 8800 N. Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO. Kevin Makel: "The Last Gun of Frank James."

Lee's Summit History Museum

Friday, August 12, 2022 – 6:30 p.m. 220 SW Main Street, Lee's Summit, MO. Dave Eames and Ben Wine of Fossil Forge: "Historic Signage."

Brown Bag Program, Shawnee Indian Mission

Wednesday, August 17, 2022 – Noon. Bring your own lunch. 12:30 p.m. – Program To Be Announced. East Building at the Shawnee Indian Mission, 3403 W. 53rd Street, Fairway, KS. Please RSVP to John Forbes at JWForbes@outlook.com.

Civil War Wednesdays at the Harris-Kearney House

Wednesday, August 17, 2022 – 1:00 p.m. at 4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, MO. Dick Titterington: "Order No. 11." This is the story of the Union commanders in Missouri and their struggle to put an end to the guerrilla war along the Kansas/Missouri border. \$6.00.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City, MO

Wednesday, August 17, 2022 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner. Cost is \$32. Milburn Golf and Country Club, 7501 W. 69th Street, Overland Park, KS. Jeff Patrick: "Battle of Wilson's Creek." Reservation required by August 10, 2022. E-mail Susan Keipp at skeipp@kc.rr.com or call (816) 333-0025.

Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, August 17, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO (across from Walmart). Chris Edwards: "What Really Happened at Quantrill's Raid on Lawrence, KS?"

Third Thursday at Clay Count Museum

Thursday, August 18, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. Clay County Museum, 14 N. Main Street, Liberty, MO. "From Enslaved to Leadership – African-Americans, Mormons, and Women."

Civil War on the Border, Lawrence, KS

August 18-21, 2022. Douglas County's largest annual commemoration of its heritage. Intersection between natural and cultural history. Bus and walking tours of local sites and a moving memorial service for the victims of Quantrill's Raid. Talks from representatives of Haskell Indian Nations. Go to the Watkins Museum website for more details.

Saturday Reenactment at Shoal Creek Village

Saturday, August 20, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. 7000 NE Barry Road, Kansas City, MO. The year is 1880. The Shoal Creek Reenactors will bring the village to life with shoot-outs and skits throughout the day to demonstrate life in Missouri during the 19th Century. Rain or Shine. \$5/person; Under 10/ Free.

Bates County Museum, Butler, MO

Saturday, August 20, 2022 – 10:30 a.m. Bates County Museum, 802 Elks Drive, Butler, MO. Chris Edwards: "What Really Happened? Quantrill's Raid on Lawrence, KS." Chris' book for sale. Freewill Donation Luncheon immediately following.

News About Members and Friends

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area is excited to welcome **Lucinda Adams** as the new Executive

Director following the death of Jim Ogle. She holds a Master's degree in library science and Master's and Bachelor of Arts degrees in history from Indiana University. She has worked for the State Historical Society of Missouri as State Coordinator of National History Day in 2006-2007 and as the Associate Director of the Research Center-Kansas City since 2014. She will begin her new position on July 25, 2022.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has included in its new budget an authorization for the creation of the **Culpepper Battlefields State Park** set to open July 1, 2024. It will be formed by the donation of 1,700 acres from the American Battlefield Trust. It includes a place of massive strategic importance in the Civil War and also a stop for thousands of enslaved peoples as they hurried northward to freedom; many crossed the Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers there.

Missouri Life Magazine points out the publication of a two-book collection of essays about the Missouri Crisis. It's called **A Fire Bell in the Past, Volumes I & II**, edited by Jeffrey I. Pasey and John Craig Hammond (hard cover at \$45 each). The two-year Missouri Crisis which divided the United States into slave and free states for the first time, inspired Thomas Jefferson to call it "a fire bell in the night" that terrified him as the possible "knell of the Union."

The **Watkins Museum of History**, 1047 Massachusetts Street, Lawrence, KS has recently received a \$100,000 grant from the Sunderland Foundation to update the museum's public research function. When completed, it will feature a new public use space, expanded storage, and updated equipment for digitizing and processing archival collections. Public research services are suspended until the end of July 2022.

We are sorry to hear of the death of **Robert Hicks**, author of *The Widow of the South*, on February 25, 2022. His greatest desire was for people to come to Franklin, TN to witness its Civil War history.

We want to congratulate **Clay Bauske**, Truman Library Curator, who was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by Jackson County Historical Society in March 2022. He oversees 32,000 artifacts, display documents, and various objects at the Truman Library.

Richard Stewart has been slowed down in posting to his Quantrill website by ill health of both his father and father-in-law. He and his wife Donia are caregivers for both. He is grateful to his loyal readers and sends his thanks.

Battle Of Athens State Historic Site

Missouri's northernmost Civil War battle, the Battle of Athens, not only was significant in keeping northeast Missouri under Union control, but had a major impact on a thriving river town.

John Boon of Kentucky was the first settler at the Athens site around 1831 and by 1841, it had a post office. By the late 1840's, a federal lock and dam had been built on the Des Moines River that converted Athens into a bustling river port. The town grew to be a village of about 500 people with 50 businesses, 5 churches and a two-story public school. Businesses included a large hotel, a wagon factory, a meat packing plant and a large mill that produced flour, cornmeal, lumber, and cotton and woolen products.

Athens prospered until the outbreak of the Civil War. Settled by people from the upper South, Athens was considered by Unionists to be a hotbed of pro-South sentiment. As the Spring of 1861 moved into Summer, northeast Missourians began choosing sides in the ever-widening national conflict.

Pro-Unionists rallied around David Moore, who had raised a force of about 500 men. Moore entered and occupied Athens on July 24, 1861 seizing homes and businesses from pro-South supporters to quarter and provision his troops. Pro-South supporters rallied around Col. Martin Green. Green raised a force of about 3,000 men, including two of Moore's sons.

The confrontation between Moore's and Green's forces took place at Athens on August 5, 1861. The battle began about 5:00 a.m. Moore and his Unionists were surrounded on 3 sides by Green's troops, with the Des Moines River to their rear. Despite being outnumbered at least five to one, Moore's men were better trained and equipped. After about two hours of fighting, at least 50 soldiers had been wounded or killed and the pro-South side was demoralized and in full retreat.

The big loser in the battle was the town of Athens. Bitter feelings between neighbors continued for decades following the Civil War. Athens was also hurt by the shift from river to railroad transportation in the post-war era. By 1900, the once-thriving town was nearly gone.

Archaeological research conducted since the park was established has uncovered evidence that a long Native American occupation of the area preceded the historic town site and included an early 19th century Sauk and Fox village.

